type of aircraft under fair weather conditions. Action has been initiated for providing night landing facilities.

(c) and (d) Tender action has been initiated for taking up construction of new integrated terminal building complex for handling 500 international and domestic passengers at a time with all modern facilities including two aero-bridges at Madurai airport. The project is likely to be com m issioned by March, 2009.

**Modernization of ATC system**

3504. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to modernize air traffic control system and build safety standards with the assistance of USA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this would enhance navigation in all phases of flight, make routing more flexible and efficient, increase safety of landing, etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) A Memorandum of Agreement (Umbrella Agreement) between the Indian Civil Aviation Authority (Ministry of Civil Aviation) and Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) of USA has been signed on 13th November, 2006. The agreement provides for assistance by FAA to the Civil Aviation sector in India in developing and modernizing the civil aviation infrastructure in the managerial, operational and technical areas. All assistance under this agreement will be on the basis of reimbursement of costs. The technical assistance to be provided by FAA may, *inter-alia,* include the following:

- Provide technical assistance related to issues addressed under a Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement (BASA);
- Providing technical and managerial expertise to assist the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) in developing, improving and operating its civil aviation infrastructure, standards, procedures, training and equipment;

- Providing training for personnel designated by MoCA in the United States or in Inida;
- Inspecting and celibrating India owned or operated equipment and air navigation facilities;
- Providing resources, logistical support and equipment for air navigation facilities; and
- Providing technical assistance related to the certification of SBAS.
- The Umbrella Agreement will, thus, enable Airports Authority of India (AAI) to sign specific technical assistance agreement in the areas of air traffic control, navigation etc.

**Bird-hit cases at IGIA**

3505. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases of bird hit' and 'Nilgai' on runways at the Indira Gandhi International Airport have been reported during the last two years and the amount of losses incurred; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to check such menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) During the last year (2006), 25 bird hit incidents were reported at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) as against 35 in 2005. However, no cases of 'Nilgai' on the runway have been reported during the said period. Government does not maintain separate records of losses incurred by airlines due to bird hit incidents.

(b) To avoid bird hit cases, Airfield Environment Management Committees have been constituted at those airport where scheduled flights operate to identify the sources of bird attraction and take remedial steps like proper . disposal of garbage, prevention of water logging, coverage of garbage dalaos, establishment of modern abattoirs, scaring and shooting of birds etc., for prevention of bird hit incidents. To prevent 'Nilgais' entering on the runway, the operational area is adequately protected by fencing.